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Left coalition projected to come top in French polls

A coalition of left parties was on course to win the highest number of seats in French Parliament, early projections based on vote samples showed. No party or bloc is on course for an absolute majority in the 576-member House. Projections showed the left-wing New Popular Front winning between 172 and 215 seats, short of the 289 needed for an outright majority. President Macron's alliance is predicted to win between 150 and 180 seats and the far-right National Rally in third position with between 115 and 155 seats | P9

WOMAN KILLED

Sena leader held over son's hit-and-run

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A Shiv Sena leader was arrested on Sunday after a speeding luxury car, allegedly driven by his son, rammed a motorcycle killing a woman in the early hours of Sunday in Mumbai.

A BMW sedan, allegedly driven by Mihir Shah, son of Rajesh Shah, rammed the two-wheeler on which Kaveri Nakhawa and her husband Pradeep Nakhawa, both fisher folk, were travelling in Worli.

Pradeep, who was riding the motorcycle, said when the car hit them, he lost balance and they fell on the car's bonnet. The driver continued to drive, dragging his wife along, while Pradeep fell onto the road. Pradeep said Mihir was driving the vehicle and he pleaded with him to stop the vehicle, but he kept driving.

"He continued to drive his car and dragged my wife. I tried to run after the vehicle ... then I took the help of a taxi. We chased the car for more than a kilometer, but could not find Kaveri. So, I decided to go to Worli police station. Then we traced my wife and took her to hospital where she succumbed to her injuries," Pradeep said, adding if Mihir had stopped his car at his request, his wife would have not died.

The 24-year-old Mihir was allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol. Mihir is absconding. Maharashtra CM Ekanth Shinde has vowed strict against the guilty.

Chandrachud-led bench to take up NEET pleas today

Supreme Court to hear batch of 38 petitions, including those seeking fresh examination

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, will on Monday hear a batch of pleas on the controversy-ridden medical entrance exam NEET-UG 2024, including those alleging irregularities and malpractices in the May 5 test and seeking a direction to conduct it afresh.

According to the cause list for July 8 uploaded on the SC website, the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, is scheduled to hear a total of 38 petitions related to the exam.

These petitions have been filed separately by students and various educational institutions. Among the pleas is one filed by a group of 20 students seeking the court's direction to scrap the NEET-UG exam and a Supreme Court-monitored probe by the CBI or any other independent agency into the alleged irregularities in the test.

The SC had earlier stayed proceedings on similar pleas filed by students and others in various high courts.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate is conducted by the National Testing Agency for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH, and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

The Centre and the NTA had filed separate affidavits in the SC, opposing the pleas seeking drastic steps.

In its affidavit, the Union education ministry said the exam held on May 5 should not be cancelled as it would seriously jeopardise lakhs of honest candidates who attempted it. It added that it would not be rational to scrap the entire NEET-UG exam in the absence of any proof of large-scale breach of confidentiality.

The NTA's affidavit said, "The cancellation of the entire examination... would be hugely counterproductive and significantly harmful to the larger public interest."

Meanwhile, a group of students on Sunday staged a protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar against NEET irregularities.

1 dies in stampede-like situation at Puri Rath Yatra

Chariot of Lord Jagannath being pulled on the first day of Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha on Sunday | BISWAJEETA MALLICK

RAJKUMAR MOHANTY @ Puri

THE first Rath Yatra under the newly-elected BJP government in Odisha started on a tragic note as a male devotee was killed and several others sustained injuries when a stampede-like situation arose during the pulling of the chariots of the Holy Trinity on Sunday evening.

While the deceased has been identified as Lalit Bagarti of Saintala in Balangir district, the condition of one of the injured is said to be critical. The incident took place near the Hindi school, about 200 metres from Simhadwar of the Jagannath temple, when there was a mad rush to pull the Taladhwaja chariot of Lord Balabhadra — the first to roll. Eyewitnesses said, the tussle among the devotees to lay hands on the ropes and pull the chariot led to the situation. The deceased devotee fell down in the push and was trampled by others. At least, five others also fell down and sustained injuries. Volunteers shifted all of them to the district headquarters hospital where the doctors declared one dead.

This apart, over 300 devotees were hospitalised due to various reasons including dehydration.

EXPRESS READ

First case of rat fever reported from Haveri

Haveri/Gadag: In the first case of rat fever this year, a 12-year old boy was diagnosed with the illness in Haveri on Sunday. He is recovering at Haveri district hospital. He was suffering from fever for the last 15 days | P5

Euro 2024 gears up for semi-final matches

Dusseldorf: The stage is set for the semi-finals of Euro 2024 and four heavyweight teams will battle it out on Tuesday and Wednesday. Spain will face France and England will take on the Netherlands. Spain have been the best team. Their new-age wingers "Lacine Yamal and Nico Williams" have also set the pulses racing. England have relied on individual brilliance to take them to another semifinal | P11

'Poison cans' opened in Hathras, claims lawyer

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

IN a new twist to the July 2 Hathras satsang stampede, the lawyer of 'Bhole Baba' Narayan Sakar Hari alias Suraj Pal on Sunday claimed that witnesses told him some people opened cans containing a poisonous substance in the crowd. This, he said, caused panic among the crowd and triggered the stampede that killed 121 people, mostly women.

Talking to media persons in Delhi, lawyer A P Singh also alleged conspiracy and criminal acts by some anti-social elements, who were upset about the baba's 'rising popularity'.

"I have been told by the witnesses that there were 15-16 people carrying cans of a poisonous substance which they opened in the crowd. I have seen post-mortem reports of the deceased showing asphyxiation as the main cause of death and not the injuries," said Singh.

In his first reaction to the tragedy, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said the conspiracy angle could not be ruled out.

Singh said, "There were vehicles parked at the site to help the men, who had released poisonous substance, flee. We have proof and we will submit it."

On Saturday, Hathras police said it was also probing into the suspected funding of the congregation by a political party and warned of the "strictest possible" action against it.

'Will publish list of MUDA 50:50 site beneficiaries'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

THE allotment of alternative sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi is legal as the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) had acquired her 3.16 acres of land illegally and developed it, said Mysuru district in-charge minister HC Mahadevappa on Sunday.

He said MUDA, at its meeting, had passed a resolution admitting its folly in encroaching the land, and had decided to allot alternative sites at 50:50 ratio.

He said, "We will soon come out with a list of people who have benefited from the 50:50 site allotment scam, to prevent public from buying these sites. We will not spare anyone, however influential them may be." P4

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Department of Health and Family Welfare

One Day Per Week - Every Friday

A dedicated day to eliminate Aedes Mosquito Breeding Sources

Shri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka

Dengue Prevention is a collective responsibility!

"Don't ignore the symptoms. Visit government health facilities for FREE TESTING AND TREATMENT."

Symptoms of Dengue

Sudden onset of fever

Severe Headache

Pain behind the eye-balls

Muscle & Joint Pain

Bleeding gums & nose

Rashes on the skin

Treatment & follow-up

- When Dengue symptoms appear, visit the nearest Healthcare Facility. Avoid self-medication.
- Consume adequate oral fluids including ORS, Tender coconut , Lemon Juice to keep yourself well hydrated & take sufficient rest.
- If symptoms like vomiting, pain abdomen, decreased urine output, severe apathy, drowsiness, irritability, pale cold & clammy skin appear, even after fever subsides, visit the doctor immediately.
- Consume light food & sleep under mosquito net even during day time.

Preventive Measures

Keep water-holding containers like cement tanks, drums, barrels, buckets closed.
Avoid rain water collection in solid waste materials & dispose them regularly

Hon'ble Health Minister Shri Dinesh Gundurao participating in the dengue larvae source reduction activity.

Self-Protection measures

Use mosquito nets

Use mosquito repellents

Wear long-sleeved clothes

Fixing mesh to doors & windows

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